

## Worshipping in our church buildings once again

We are delighted that from this Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, we will start to hold services within our church buildings once again. The first one will be at 10 am in Stratton Audley Church. Capacity will be limited, so you will need to reserve your place – please see guidelines below. (If you come without having booked, you may be turned away).

To make sure that we reopen our churches for worship in a manageable and safe way, we plan to build this up very slowly. We recognise that a lot of people will be unable or unsure about attending, so we will also continue to live stream.

We have a three phase plan!

### Phase One

We will hold a service of Holy Communion at 10 am on Sundays in one of our larger churches: Stratton Audley, Finmere, Stoke Lyne or Fringford. This service will also be live streamed.

### Phase Two

The start of phase two will depend on the management of Covid 19 in the UK generally, as well as on how things are progressing in the Benefice. We will aim for the beginning of September but this is open to review. At this point we will introduce an evening service into our smaller churches. We will continue to live stream the morning service. In phase two, we hope to have a mixed pattern of eucharistic and non eucharistic services. This is an example of what the pattern may look like, but details have yet to be worked out.

Sunday	10 am	6 pm
First Sunday	Holy Communion – Stratton Audley	BCP Evensong - Cottisford
Second Sunday	Morning Service – Finmere	BCP Holy Communion - Hardwick
Third Sunday	Holy Communion – Stoke Lyne	Evening prayer – Newton Purcell or Godington
Fourth Sunday	Morning Service - Fringford	Informal reflective communion - Hethe

### Phase three

In phase three we will introduce a second morning service, ensuring that there is a communion service and a service of the word every Sunday morning.

### Especially for children and families

Children and young people are, of course, very welcome at any of our services. Young children will need to be supervised by their parents or guardians to ensure they stick to the guidelines on the next page.

From September our children and families worker will run a 30 min Zoom session for the Little Lambs Parent and Toddler Group, including a story, craft and song. We do not envisage Little Lambs starting back at Stratton Audley church before January 2021. And although we will not be holding a children's holiday club this summer, she will distribute details of online holiday schemes that families can access.

In the autumn we hope to have a couple of outdoor services / events aimed at families with children.

Our children and families worker will maintain links with the schools and with Fringford preschools with a view to restarting the after school clubs when this becomes possible.

## Guidelines for Services

Although it will be wonderful to be able to physically meet together once again, there will be some changes to how the service is conducted. These are necessary as we do our best to protect everyone in the face of the ongoing threat of Covid 19. Please read these guidelines, and do your absolute best to follow them.

### **Must I reserve a seat?**

Yes, you will need to phone or email to reserve your seat, letting us know how many of you there will be, and giving us a contact number. This is for three reasons:

- it will allow us to arrange the seating in the best way for those who are attending so that we can observe the 2 metre distancing between households
- we can let you know if for any reason the service has to be cancelled
- we will have a record of who was at the service which we will keep for 21 days to assist with the Government's Track and Trace service if necessary.

Seats will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis. If you come but have not reserved a seat, you may be turned away.

Phone 01280 848192 or email: [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info). (Becky works mornings on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and will acknowledge any messages during those times).

### **Do I need to wear a facemask?**

This is your choice. The minister will wear a mask whilst greeting people at the door and when distributing the communion. There will be disposable masks available for a donation of £1.

### **What will the service look like?**

When you arrive, you will be met at the door.

We will not take a collection during the service. Instead there will be a contactless giving plate and a collection plate for cash donations near the door for you to make your contribution as you enter the church.

Then you will be invited to sanitise your hands with hand sanitiser which will be provided.

Then you will be directed to your seat. At all times try to maintain a 2 metre social distance between you and others.

On your seat you will find the order of service, and a notice sheet for the week with the words for the hymns. These will have been distributed by someone wearing disposable gloves. You can take the notice sheet away with you, but leave the order of service on your seat when you leave. It will then be quarantined for the next service!

There will be no singing, but we will listen to some hymns being sung by the choral scholars of St Martin in the Fields. You are welcome to hum along!

We are also asked not to raise our voices in saying response and prayers, but just use a normal speaking voice.

There will be no sharing of the peace through physical contact.

Before the prayer of consecration, the minister will sanitise her hands. With the exception of the priest's wafer, the wafers will be covered until they are distributed.

Communion will be in one kind only. In other words the congregation will receive just the bread and not the wine.

The arrangements for receiving communion will vary slightly from church to church, and you will need to follow directions given. You will be asked to sanitise your hands once again before receiving.

No words will be said as communion is given and received.

Currently we are not able to serve refreshments after the service and are encouraged not to hang around and chat. So at the end of the service you will be directed to leave row by row. You are asked not to stop to chat outside the church door and to be careful not to block the route for others, making sure you maintain a good social distance.

### **Will I appear on the live stream?**

We will continue to live stream the service. The camera will be focused on the front of the church – the minister, readers and people leading the intercessions.

### **I'm not sure whether I ought to come?**

Although we would love to see you, if you are unsure please don't feel pressurised to come.

If you are over 70, then Government advice is that you should stay at home as much as possible and when you do go out, you need to take extra care to minimise contact with others.

If you are in the extremely clinically vulnerable group and have been advised to shield, then we do not expect to see you before the end of August.

If you have symptoms of COVID 19, or share a household with someone who has symptoms, please stay at home.

If you develop symptoms of COVID 19 after attending the service, please let us know so that we can deep clean the church and let others know.

## **Resuming worship in our church buildings**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July – 10 am – Stratton Audley

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – 10 am – Finmere

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July – 10 am – Stoke Lyne

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – 10 am – Fringford

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August – 10 am – Stratton Audley

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August – 10 am – Finmere

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – 10 am – Stoke Lyne

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August – 10 am – Fringford

## **Guidelines – a summary**

**We look forward to welcoming you to our services but ask that you follow the guidance given for the safety of yourself and others.**

1. Reserve your seat

Phone 01280 848192 or email [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

Your reservation will be confirmed.

2. Observe social distancing of 2 metres
3. Use the hand sanitiser when you arrive and before receiving communion
4. Listen to hymns, hum along. but don't sing
5. Follow directions given on about where to sit, receiving communion, and how to leave.

Please note that In the communion, you will receive bread only.

The service will be live streamed onto Facebook (Shelswell News Group) and then uploaded onto YouTube (Shelswell Parishes).